

VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

October 22, 2008

2:00 p.m.

House Room 3

AGENDA

Attending: Senator Harry Blevins;
Delegates Mamye BaCote, Robert Brink, Mark Cole, William H. Fralin, Jr., Chris Peace, and Beverly Sherwood;
Citizen members Anthony Dale and Joy Myers

Absent: Senators Edward Houck and Yvonne Miller; citizen member Marvin Wagner

Staff Attending: Amy M. Atkinson, Joyce Garner, Cordell Hairston and Leah Hamaker

Agenda Items

I. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Delegate William H. Fralin, Jr.

Delegate Fralin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Delegate Fralin welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Commission's 2008 study year and acknowledged the success of the morning's Family Impact Seminar. The Seminar, which focused legislative attention on Truancy and Dropout Prevention Policies, was jointly sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University, the Commission on Youth, and the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention.

II. **Class of 2008 On-Time Graduation Rate Results**

Charles B. Pyle, Director of Communications

Virginia Department of Education

As introduction, Delegate Fralin provided a brief history of the bill he patroned which led to the collection and reporting of this data for the first time. Mr. Pyle then presented the Virginia Department of Education's Class of 2008 on-time graduation rate results. In answer to questions about the on-time graduation rate, he indicated that the Department of Education (DOE) tracks only Virginia public school results and that private and parochial school results need to be obtained through other sources. Members joined in discussion about the impact of data and the meaning of "benchmark" as a measure. Delegate Fralin indicated that, by Code, the benchmark can be changed only through General Assembly action and thus cannot be altered in any way by DOE to artificially improve future years' results.

III. **Study of Truancy and School Dropout Prevention – Draft Recommendations**

Amy M. Atkinson

As introduction, Ms. Atkinson provided a brief overview, indicating that Commission staff is providing the draft recommendations at this meeting in order to give members, other interested parties and the public an opportunity to review them prior to the December 3, 2008 meeting, at which the Commission will take action. Public comment will be received through November 25, 2008. Comment received will be provided to the Commission on December 3.

Ms. Atkinson presented a Power Point summary of the study findings and draft recommendations.

IV. Study of Alternative Education Options – Draft Recommendations

Leah Hamaker, Legislative Policy Analyst

Ms. Hamaker provided, as introduction, the same outline of information as Ms. Atkinson's, and presented a Power Point summary of the study findings and draft recommendations.

V. Impact of Virginia Proposed Budget Reduction

Commission members were provided a copy of the Budget Reduction Plan required of legislative agencies.

Delegate Fralin indicated that, because of anticipated budget cuts, the Commission on Youth will encourage electronic meetings for its Advisory Groups. Travel reimbursement to Advisory Group citizen members will not be provided.

VI. 2008 Meeting Calendar

The Commission meets next on December 3 at a time and place to be announced.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20.

Public comment was not received at this meeting.